

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 15-34 are pending. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to include the Abstract published with the parent PCT application (i.e., as WO 97/40193).

The specification has been amended to include revised Figures 1 (pages 1/71-65/71), 2 (page 66/71) and 4 (page 68/71) which include sequence identifiers consistent with the attached Sequence Listing. No new matter has been added. A marked-up copy of the amended figures is not believed to be required however the same will be submitted upon the Examiner's further request for the same.

The specification has been amended to include a paper copy of the Sequence Listing filed May 22, 2000, in the parent application Serial No. 09/155,885. No new matter has been added. The Office is requested to use the computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing filed May 22, 2000 in the parent application Serial No. 09/155,885, for the present application. The attached paper copy of the Sequence Listing is the same as the paper and computer readable copies of the Sequence Listing filed May 22, 2000 in the parent application Serial No. 09/155,885. A separate Request in this respect is attached.

Basis for the new claims in the specification may be found throughout the specification and originally filed claims. Specifically, for example, the following claims are supported as noted: claim 15, page 4 lines 2-4 (detection of one or more HBV genotypes), page 13 lines 17-19 (any hybridization method), page 4 lines 5-8 (detection

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of one or more variations in the HBsAg region); claim 16, page 7, lines 22-24 (sequences as represented in Figure 1); claim 17, Claim 9 as filed + Figure 1; claim 19, Claim 9 as filed + Figure 1; claim 21, Claim 9 as filed + Figure 1; claim 23, Claim 9 as filed + Figure 4; claims 25, Claim 9 as filed + Figure 4; claim 27, Claim 9 as filed + Figure 4; claim 28, Table 1 as filed; claim 29, page 13 lines 6-16; claim 30, Page 5 lines 13-14 (probes) and page 15 line 19 (length); claim 31, Claim 11 as filed + Table 1; claim 32, Claim 11 as filed + Table 1; claim 33, Claim 13 as filed; and claim 34, page 5 lines 22-23; page 14 as filed.

Attached are copies of the PTO-1449 Forms listing references made of record in the parent application Serial No. 09/155,885. The Examiner is requested to return initialed copies of the attached PTO-1449 Forms, pursuant to MPEP §609. Further copies of the cited references are not believed to be required however the Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned if otherwise.

A copy of the Declaration filed in the parent application Serial No. 09/155,885, is attached.

A copy of the International Search Report dated 16.3.98, issued in the parent International Application No. PCT/EP97/02002, is attached.

A copy of Blum et al. referred to in (Journal of Virology, April 19, 1991, pages 1836-1842, Vol. 65, No. 4) is attached as the same was submitted in the parent application Serial No. 09/155,885. The attached Blum et al. reference is listed on the attached PTO-1449 Forms.

An early and favorable Action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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